IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5, 9, 32, 39, 40, 65, 72, and 73, as set forth below.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

1 5. (Currently Amended) A system comprising: 2 a router having a port, the router coupled with a network; 3 a number of dispatchers coupled with the port router, each of the dispatchers having a 4 local dispatch table, wherein at least two of the dispatchers share a session entry 5 identifying a client and a selected server; and 6 a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers coupled with each of the number of 7 dispatchers; 8 wherein the router directs each communication received from the network to one of the 9 number of dispatchers, the one dispatcher to determine which of the plurality of 10 servers is to receive the communication. 1 6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number 1 dispatchers and the plurality of servers are interconnected by a system area network. 2 1 1 7. (Original) The system of claim 6, the system area network exhibiting an InfiniBand® architecture. 2

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- 1 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the network
- 2 comprises one or more networks selected from a group consisting of a Local Area
- 3 Network, a Wide Area Network, a Metropolitan Area Network, and the Internet.

- 1 9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of
- 2 <u>dispatchers are coupled with a port of the router</u>, the port of the router exhibiting port
- 3 trunking.

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- 1 10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the number of
- 2 dispatchers have identical network addresses.

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- 1 11. (Original) The system of claim 5, the plurality of servers comprising:
- 2 a first server group providing a first application; and
- 3 at least a second server group providing a second, different application.

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- 1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11, each of the first server group and the
- 2 second server group comprising at least one server.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled)

1	32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
2	receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
3	dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
4	searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
5	transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if
6	the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
7	transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of
8	dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock
9	indicating that communications received from the \underline{a} client are to be transmitted to
10	the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.
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1	33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table
2	includes the client lock, the method further comprising:
3	selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and
4	transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.
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1	34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a
2	dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality
3	of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating
4	removal of the client lock.
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- 35. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:
- 2 receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet
- 3 including a connection request from a client;
- 4 creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that
- 5 packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a
- 6 server is selected for the client; and
- 7 broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of
- 8 the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

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- 36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
- 2 receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

3 transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

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- 1 37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:
- 2 selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
- 3 transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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- 1 38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting
- 2 another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said
- 3 another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
- 4 client lock.

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(Currently Amended) A method comprising: 1 39. receiving a packet at a router having a port, the router coupled with a plurality of 2 3 dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client; transmitting the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; 4 5 selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; placing a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry 6 7 identifying the client and the selected server; broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of 8 9 the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the 10 selected server; 11 transmitting the packet to the selected server; 12 receiving a second packet at the router from the client; and transmitting the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of 13 14 dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second 15 dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the 16 selected server. 1 1 40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising: 2 selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the 3 plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with the a port of the router; and

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transmitting the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

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1 41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising randomly selecting 2 the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

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- 42. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
- 2 determining a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
- 3 selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

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- 1 43. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
- 2 identifying an application associated with the packet; and
- 3 selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

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44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers.

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- 1 45. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising replacing in the
- 2 packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a
- 3 network address of the selected server.

Claims 46-64 (Canceled)

1	65. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:
2	a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3	that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4	receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of
5	dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
6	search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
7	transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers
8	if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
9	transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the
10	plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the
11	client lock indicating that communications received from the a client are
12	to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the
13	client.
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1	66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table
2	including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the
3	machine to:
4	select a server from the plurality of servers; and
5	transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.
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1	67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the
2	instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table
3	update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers,
4	the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the
5	client lock.
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1	68. (Previously Presented) A article of manufacture comprising:
2	a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
3	that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
4	receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first
5 = -	packet including a connection request from a client;
6	create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating
7	that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one
8	dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and
9	broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers
10	of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the
11	client lock.

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- 1 69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the
- 2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:
- 3 receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
- 4 transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

- 1 70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the
- 2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
- 3 select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
- 4 transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

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- 1 71. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the
- 2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch
- 3—table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch
- 4 table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

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72. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions
that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
receive a packet at a router having a port, the router coupled with a plurality of
dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client;
transmit the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of
dispatchers;
select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of
dispatchers;
place a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session
entry identifying the client and the selected server;
broadcast a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers
of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the
client and the selected server;
transmit the packet to the selected server;
receive a second packet at the router from the client; and
transmit the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality
of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the
second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second
packet to the selected server.

1	73. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
2	instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3	select a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the
4	plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with
5	the a port of the router; and
6	transmit the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.
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1	74. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 73, wherein the
2	instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to randomly select the
3	communication link from the plurality of communication links.
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1	75. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
2	instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
3	determine a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
4	select the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.
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1	76. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the

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instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

identify an application associated with the packet; and

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- 1 77. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein
- 2 the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the
- 3 plurality of dispatchers.

- 1 78. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the
- 2 instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to replace in the packet a network
- 3 address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the
- 4 selected server.

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